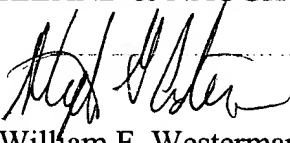


acknowledged in the Notification of Acceptance Under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.494 or 1.495 dated February 17, 1998. Since the Japanese priority application provides sufficient support for the subject matter claimed and the claim for priority to the prior Japanese patent application has been perfected by the submission herein, Furuta is overcome as a reference against the instant application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn and that claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Verified Translation of the Priority Document of JP8-115897